

BIO/POSITION PAPER



PERSONAL INFORMATION

David A. Harper

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E-mail: daharper52@yahoo.com

Spouse's Name: Sharon Harper (married for 37 years)

Spouse's employer: US Customs and Border Protection

Two children: David Jr., age 36 (Resides with his wife and three children in Anchorage) and Lionel, age 33 (Resides with his wife and two children in Redding, California)

Resident of Sitka for two years, and of Alaska for seven years.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage

Master of Arts Degree, Educational Administration from Simpson College, Redding, California

Bachelor of Science Degree, Business Administration (with a minor in Education) from Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon

Associate of Science Degree, Business Administration from Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, Oregon

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

8/2002 – Current University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka Campus Sitka, Alaska
Assistant Professor Computer Information and Office Systems
Instructor of computer application and business administration courses

Over 30 years career experience in education either as an instructor, school administrator, or a teacher (elementary, secondary and higher education)

Three years as a small business owner

Eight years multicultural experience: five years teaching on Indian reserves, two years teaching ESL in China, and one year as an instructor at Ilisagvik College in Barrow, Alaska

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL SERVICE HISTORY

TLTR committee member

Faculty Search Committee member

Computer Lab Manager

Directed Studies volunteer instructor
Advisor, Office Technology Program
Faculty Evaluation Committee
Community Workshop Development Committee (received award for the team of the semester)
Youth Sports Director & Coach
Student Council Advisor
Church Board of Directors member
Housing Cooperative Board of Directors member
Housing Cooperative Finance Committee member
Volunteer Fireman

POLITICAL VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON CURRENT ISSUES

First I would like to explain why I've decided to seek to serve the people of Sitka as an Assembly Member. I do not have a personal vendetta behind my candidacy; rather, I am running because I feel it is my civic responsibility to offer my services to the people of Sitka. I believe the process of self-government necessitates the participation of the people in town meetings, public hearings, and community projects for community improvement and for finding out the problems that need to be solved. Consequently, I offer my knowledge and talents to assist in charting a direction for the future, and to help direct day-to-day city affairs. That is why I have decided to run for office as an Assembly Member.

I'm generally a conservative in my political views. I believe in our free enterprise system with minimum government regulation. I think that elected government officials have a responsibility to keep the people informed of key topics. I also believe that issues of major concern to the community should be voted upon by the public. The proposed cruise ship dock facility and the funding of the community hospital are two such issues that come to mind.

It is my belief that elected officials should look at the whole picture when various projects are under consideration so that "hidden costs" are discovered before the project is launched and the operation expenses don't perpetually drain the finances of the city. As an example, the capital outlay for a massive project such as the Performing Arts Center is only the up front cost of such a facility. The long-term cost of operating the facility is also a relevant cost issue.

I share some of the simple concerns other property owners in Sitka have, such as: keeping property taxes low, continuing with reasonable electric rates, and making sure that those who have dogs are responsible pet owners.

Since we (the citizens of Sitka) pay for the services of all the local agencies (city administration, police, public works, fire department, etc.), I believe that there should be some accountability of those agencies to the citizens through their elected Assembly Members. For example, if the Assembly would have taken a more proactive role in the management of the Fire Department, perhaps the disharmony that has occurred within the Department over the past year could have been avoided.

Routinely governmental decision makers look for ways to spend more money and generate more revenue. Contrary to this approach, I believe we should look at the cost side rather than the supply side of the city budget. Let's look for ways to cut costs rather than always trying to find ways to increase revenue.

I'm against "temporary" taxes for specific purposes, as historically once the original goal is attained the revenue from the tax is never repealed. Rather, the income is allocated to other uses.